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PREFACE.

THE present volume is of a more general zoological character than any of its immediate predecessors, and if some subjects are less represented, that omission marks the varied studies of its contributors rather than any editorial direction. That 'THE ZOOLOGIST' is taking a wide view of animal life is a subject for congratulation; it is characteristic of its title, and is a fulfilment of its function. The faunal descriptions and lists are an important feature, and in this volume alone we can, among other communications, refer to Dr. Clark's "Notes on Cornish Crustacea," Mr. Patterson's "Rough Notes on the Fish and Fisheries of East Suffolk," Mr. Cummings's "Notes on the Fauna of Lundy Island," Mr. Arnold's investigations on the Eastbourne Crumbles, and Mr. Harcourt-Bath's memoir "On the Vertical and Bathymetrical Distribution of the British non-Marine Mollusca, with Special Reference to the Cotteswold Fauna." This work is of the greatest importance in British Zoology, and can be, and we trust will be, largely increased in the future.

In Ornithology, during what may be called the "Crossbill year," our "Notes and Queries" contain many valuable records; in annual reports are continued those of Mr. Gurney on Norfolk and Mr. Aplin on Oxford; while Messrs. Thorpe and Hope have commenced their digest of the Natural History Record Bureau at Carlisle. In the bionomical pursuit of bird-watching, so pregnant with fresh facts in animal psychology, Mr. Selous

has turned his attention to the "Nuptial Habits of the Black-cock," while in another ornithological byway Dr. Leiper has described a new species of parasitic *Filaria* in the Thrush. Mr. Dewar's "Notes on the Feeding-habits of the Dunlin" are of the greatest interest; Mr. Blathwayt has brought up to date an account of the Lincolnshire Gulleries, and Mr. Boyd Watt has compiled a good "Bibliography of London Birds."

In Philosophical Zoology, Prof. McIntosh has contributed a learned and judicious pronouncement on "The Darwinian Theory in 1867 and Now"; the "List of the Zoological Gardens of the World," by Capt. Stanley Flower, is a thorough and complete treatment of the subject; Mr. Elmhirst's "Notes from Millport Marine Biological Station," we hope, will be continued, and mention must be made of the lengthy and complete enumeration, with bibliographical references, of the "Hymenopterous Parasites of Rhynchota," by Mr. Claude Morley.

In conclusion, the thought must be driven home to all of us, by the perusal of a single volume of this publication, how much can and is still to be done in British Zoology alone. A competent zoologist could devote his life's work to studying the animal life—in all its phases—of his own garden; he could soon compile a list of names, but a complete knowledge of the life-histories of these species is known to few indeed, while the bionomics of the whole of the living creatures to be found on a half-acre patch may be safely said to be at present outside the mental recognition of any one naturalist.



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